

American company, Russian propaganda: New Kremlin tactic reveals escalating effort to sway U.S. vote



Attorney General Merrick Garland arrives for a meeting of the Justice Department's Election Threats Task Force at the Department of Justice, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press
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By DAVID KLEPPER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia has long sought to inject disinformation into U.S. political discourse. Now, it's

got a new angle: paying Americans to do the work. This week's indictment of two Russian state media employees on charges that they paid a Tennes-

see company to create pro-Russian content has renewed concerns about foreign meddling in the November election and revealed the Kremlin's latest

tactic in a growing information war. If the allegations prove correct, they represent a significant escalation, analysts say, and likely capture only

a small piece of a larger Russian effort to sway the election.

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American company, Russian propaganda: New Kremlin tactic reveals escalating effort to sway U.S. vote

Continued from Front

"We have seen the smoke for years. Now, here's the fire," said Jim Ludes, a former national defense analyst who now leads the Pell Center for International Relations at Salve Regina University. "I don't wonder if they're doing more of this. I have no doubt."

According to prosecutors, the two employees of RT, a Russian outlet formerly known as Russia Today, funneled \$10 million to the U.S. media company, which then paid several popular right-wing influencers for their content — in one case \$400,000 a month. Two of those influencers said they had no idea their work was being supported by Russia. Intelligence officials and private analysts say Russia's disinformation campaigns are designed to cut off American assistance to Ukraine, clearing the way for a rapid Russian victory after more than two years of bitter conflict.

In the presidential race, Russia supports Donald Trump as the candidate perceived as the least supportive of Ukraine, intelligence officials say. Trump has openly praised Russian President Vladimir Putin, suggested cutting funds to Ukraine and repeatedly criticized NATO. On Thursday, Putin wryly claimed he was pulling for Vice Presi-



Attorney General Merrick Garland, center, speaks before a meeting of the Justice Department's Election Threats Task Force, at the Department of Justice, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024, in Washington, with from left, Deputy Attorney General, Criminal Division, Nicole Argentieri, Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco, Garland, FBI Director Christopher Wray and Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, Matthew Olsen.

Associated Press

dent Kamala Harris.

During a briefing with reporters on Friday, intelligence officials noted that Putin's public comments often do not reflect Russia's actual intentions. The RT campaign was part of Moscow's efforts "to influence voter preferences in favor of the former president" and hinder Harris' chances, said an official with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, who spoke on condition of anonymity under rules set by the agency.

A secondary goal of Russian disinformation, officials

have said, is to increase political polarization and distrust as a way of eroding American confidence in democracy.

This summer, intelligence officials warned that Russia was using unwitting Americans to spread its propaganda by adapting it to fit existing social debates within the U.S. Instead of creating new conflicts, Russia has found success by identifying and exaggerating existing divides, tailoring disinformation accordingly. When successful, Russia can get Americans to spread its talking points

for free, without them even knowing their source.

When an Ohio train derailment caused massive environmental damage last year, Russian voices tried to steer the debate with anti-government posts that were quickly reposted by Americans. Some U.S. websites picked up the Russian propaganda and reposted it without attribution.

This year, Russian state media and networks of fake accounts began to amplify claims about immigration on platforms used by Americans.

When the COVID-19 pan-

demic began, Russian state media claimed without evidence that the virus was the product of American bioweapons experiments and that the U.S. maintained biological laboratories in Ukraine. English-language posts soon started showing up on American social media sites.

Four years later, the conspiracy theory still reverberates on far-right message boards. "What if Covid was created in a Ukraine biolab, and the War has been to keep that a secret?" a poster wrote last week on the social platform X.

The company hired by RT was identified as Tenet Media by two of the right-wing content creators it paid — Tim Pool and Benny Johnson. Both men said on social media Wednesday that they had no knowledge of Tenet's relationship with RT and that if the allegations are true, they are victims.

Pool posted that no one told him what to say in his podcast and condemned Russia: "Putin is a scumbag." Pool has a long history, however, of espousing pro-Russian, anti-Ukrainian views as well as conspiracy theories about Democrats and American democracy. On one podcast, he said "criminal elements" within the U.S. government were directing the war against Russia and that Ukraine was the real enemy. □



Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., arrives, with her father, former Vice President Dick Cheney, to vote at the Teton County Library during the Republican primary election Aug. 16, 2022, in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

Associated Press

By MEAD GRUVER
Associated Press
CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) —

Former Vice President Dick Cheney, a lifelong Republican, will vote for Kamala

Dick Cheney says he will vote for Kamala Harris

Harris for president, his daughter Liz Cheney said Friday.

Liz Cheney, who herself endorsed Harris on Wednesday, made the announcement when asked by Mark Leibovich of The Atlantic magazine during an on-stage interview at The Texas Tribune Festival in Austin. "Dick Cheney will be voting for Kamala Harris," Liz Cheney said to audience cheers.

"Wow," Leibovich replied.

Like his daughter, Dick Cheney has been an outspoken critic of former President Donald Trump, notably during Liz Cheney's ill-fated re-election campaign in 2022.

In a campaign ad for Liz Cheney as she sought a fourth term as Wyoming's lone congressperson, Dick Cheney called Trump a "coward" for trying to "steal the last election using lies and violence to keep himself in power after the vot-

ers had rejected him."

The ad did little good for his daughter in a deep-red state that once held the Cheney family dear but is now thoroughly in Trump's corner. By a 2-to-1 margin, Liz Cheney lost her Republican primary to Trump-endorsed attorney Harriet Hageman.

Notably absent from Friday's endorsement announcement was the former vice president. □

Texas sues to stop a rule that shields the medical records of women who seek abortions elsewhere

By JIM VERTUNO

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas has sued the Biden administration to try to block a federal rule that shields the medical records of women from criminal investigations if they cross state lines to seek abortion where it is legal. The lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services seeks to overturn a regulation that was finalized in April. In the suit filed Wednesday in Lubbock, Republican state Attorney General Ken Paxton accused the federal government of attempting to "undermine" the state's law enforcement capabilities. It appears to be the first legal challenge from a state with an abortion ban that took effect after the U.S. Supreme Court's 2022 ruling that overturned *Roe v. Wade* and ended the nationwide right to abortion.

The rule essentially prohibits its state or local officials from gathering medical records related to reproductive health care for a civil, criminal or administrative investigation from providers or health insurers in a state where abortion remains legal. It is intended to protect women who live in states



Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton speaks at a news conference in Dallas on June 22, 2017.

Associated Press

where abortion is illegal. In a statement, HHS declined comment on the lawsuit but said the rule "stands on its own."

"The Biden-Harris Administration remains committed to protecting reproductive health privacy and ensuring that no woman's medical records are used against her, her doctor, or her loved one simply because she got the lawful reproductive care she needed," the agency said. Texas' abortion ban, like

those in other states, exempts women who seek abortions from criminal charges. The ban provides for enforcement either through a private civil action, or under the state's criminal statutes, punishable by up to life in prison, for anyone held responsible for helping a woman obtain one.

It's not clear whether public officials have sought patient medical records related to abortion. But the state has sought records related to

gender-affirming care, demanding them from at least two out-of-state health centers last year. Like many Republican-controlled states, Texas bans gender-affirming care for minors.

At least 22 Democratic-controlled states have laws or executive orders that seek to protect medical providers or patients who participate in abortion from investigations by law enforcement in states with bans.

The federal regulation in

question is an update to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, which prohibits medical providers and health insurers from divulging medical information about patients. Typically, however, law enforcement can access those records for investigations.

A group of Republican attorneys general, all from states with strict abortion laws, had urged Health and Human Services to ditch the rule when a draft was released last year. In a 2023 letter to HHS, the group said the regulation would unlawfully interfere with states' authority to enforce laws.

"With this rule, the Biden Administration makes a backdoor attempt at weakening Texas's laws by undermining state law enforcement investigations that implicate medical procedures," Paxton said in a news release.

Liz McCaman Taylor, senior federal policy counselor at the Center for Reproductive Rights, said federal law has long provided enhanced protection for sensitive health information.

"But Texas is suing now, not because of its concern with state sovereignty, but because of its hostility to reproductive health," she said. □

Biden signs 'common sense' order prioritizing federal grants for projects with higher worker wages

By JOSH BOAK and

MATT BROWN

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP)

— President Joe Biden on Friday signed an executive order for federal grants that will prioritize projects with labor agreements, wage standards, and benefits such as access to child care and apprenticeship programs.

Biden said the ideas in his order "are common sense." "Economists have long believed that these good job standards produce more opportunities, better outcomes for workers and more predictable outcomes for

businesses as well," he said from an Ann Arbor, Michigan union training center where he made the announcement. "A good union job is building a future worthy of your dreams."

The Biden administration is trying to make the case that economic growth should flow out of better conditions for workers. His administration has stressed the vital role that organized labor will likely play for Democrats in November's election. In her matchup against Republican Donald Trump, Vice President Kamala Harris is depending on backing from the AFL-CIO and other

unions to help turn out voters in key states.

Biden has prided himself on his support of labor unions, joining striking Michigan union workers on the picket line last year. On Friday, he came on stage to chants of "Thank you, Joe!"

Trump has tried to make inroads with organized labor as well by having Teamsters President Sean O'Brien speak at the Republican National Convention. The Teamsters have yet to formally endorse any candidate, though Harris is expected to meet with them. Biden said that under his administration "we buy Ameri-



President Joe Biden participates in a signing ceremony after speaking to labor union members about his Investing in America agenda during a visit to the U.A. Local 190 Training Center in Ann Arbor, Mich., Friday, Sep. 6, 2024, as Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., right, looks on.

Associated Press

can. And we're making sure federal projects are made in America projects."

The order will establish a task force to coordinate policy development with the goal of ensuring more

benefits for workers. The administration's funding for infrastructure, computer chip manufacturing and the development of renewable energy sources has led to a wave of projects. □

A rare 1787 copy of the US Constitution is up for auction and it could be worth millions

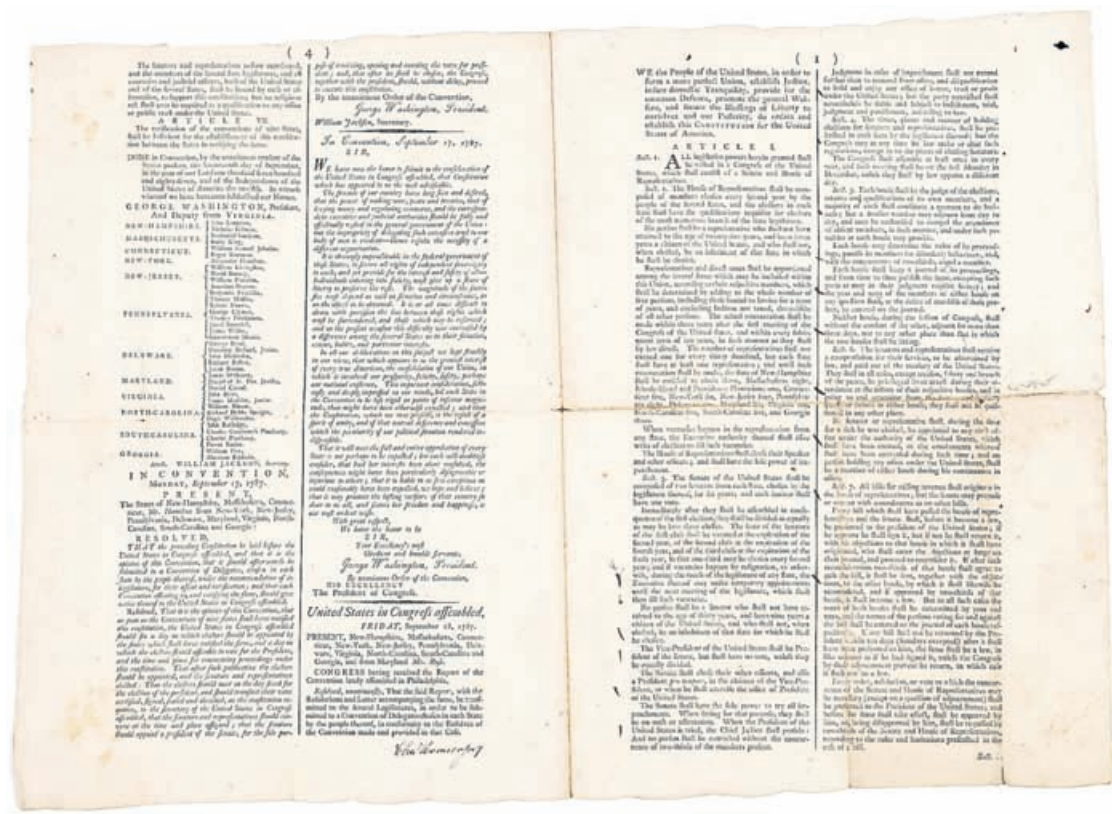
By **JEFFREY COLLINS**
Associated Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Historical document appraiser and collector Seth Kaller spreads a broad sheet of paper across a desk. It's in good enough condition that he can handle it, carefully, with clean, bare hands. There are just a few creases and tiny discolorations, even though it's just a few weeks shy of 237 years old and has spent who knows how long inside a filing cabinet in North Carolina.

At the top of the first page are familiar words but in regular type instead of the sweeping Gothic script we're used to seeing: "WE, the People ..."

And the people will get a chance to bid for this copy of the U.S. Constitution the only of its type thought to be in private hands at a sale by Brunk Auctions on Sept. 28 in Asheville, North Carolina. The minimum bid for the auction is \$1 million. There is no minimum price that must be reached.

This copy was printed after the Constitutional Convention approved the proposed framework of the nation's government in 1787 and it was ratified by the Congress of the ineffective first American government under the Articles of Confederation.



A 1787 copy of the U.S. Constitution that will be put up for auction on Sept. 28 at Bruck Auctions in Asheville, N.C., is seen in this photo.

It's one of about 100 copies printed by the secretary of that Congress, Charles Thomson. Just eight are known to still exist and the other seven are publicly owned. Thomson likely signed two copies for each of the original 13 states, essentially certifying them. They were sent to special ratifying conventions, where representatives, all white and male, wrangled for

months before accepting the structure of the United States government that continues today. "This is the point of connection between the government and the people. The Preamble 'we the people' this is the moment the government is asking the people to empower them," auctioneer Andrew Brunk said. What happened to the

document up for auction between Thomson's signature and 2022 isn't known. Two years ago, a property was being cleared out in Edenton in eastern North Carolina that was once owned by Samuel Johnston. He was the governor of North Carolina from 1787 to 1789 and he oversaw the state convention during his last year in office that ratified the Constitution.

The copy was found inside a squat, two-drawer metal filing cabinet with a can of stain on top, in a long-neglected room piled high with old chairs and a dusty book case, before the old Johnston house was preserved. The document was a broad sheet that could be folded one time like a book. "I get calls every week from people who think they have a Declaration of Independence or a Gettysburg Address and most of the time it is just a replica, but every so often something important gets found," said Kaller, who appraises, buys and sells historic documents.

"This is a whole other level of importance," he added. Along with the Constitution on the broad sheet printed front and back is a letter from George Washington asking for ratification. He acknowledged there will have to be compromise and that rights the states enjoyed will have to be given up for the nation's long-term health. "To secure all rights of independent sovereignty to each and yet provide for the interest and safety for all — individuals entering into society must give up a share of liberty to preserve the rest," wrote the man who would become the first U.S. president.

Law enforcement leans on 3D-printer industry to help thwart machine gun conversion devices



Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco speaks during a meeting of the Justice Department's Election Threats Task Force at the Department of Justice, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024, in Washington.

By **ALANNA DURKIN RICHER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Department officials are turning to the 3D-printing industry to help stop the proliferation of tiny pieces of plastic transforming weapons into illegal homemade machine guns on streets across America.

The rising threat of what are known as machine gun conversion devices requires "immediate and sustained attention," U.S. Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco said Friday. That means finding ways to stop criminals from exploiting technology to make the devices in the first place, she said.

"Law enforcement cannot do this alone," Monaco said during a gathering in Washington of federal law enforcement officials, members of the 3D-printing industry and academia. "We need to engage software developers, technology experts and leaders in the 3-D-printing industry to identify solutions in this fight."

Devices that convert firearms to fully automatic weapons have spread "like wildfire" due to advancements in 3D-printing technology, according to Steve Dettelbach, the director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. His agency reported a 570% increase in the number of conversion devices collected by police departments between 2017 and 2021.

"More and more of these devices were being sold over the internet and on social media, and more and more they were actually just being printed by inexpensive 3D printers in homes and garages everywhere," Dettelbach said.

U.N.-backed rights experts seek wider arms embargo and 'impartial force' deployed to war-torn Sudan

By JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — U.N.-backed human rights investigators on Friday urged the creation of an "independent and impartial force" to protect civilians in Sudan's war, blaming both sides for war crimes including murder, mutilation and torture and warning that foreign governments which arm and finance them could be complicit.

The fact-finding team, in their first report since being created by the U.N.'s main human rights body in October, also accused the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, which are fighting Sudan's army, and its allies of crimes against humanity, including rape, sexual slavery and persecution on ethnic or gender grounds.

"The people of Sudan have suffered greatly, and the violations against them must stop. This cannot be done without ending the fighting," Mohamed Chande Othman, the chair of the team, told a news conference.

The experts called for the expansion of an arms embargo on Sudan's long-resive western Darfur region to the entire country.

The findings from the team mandated by the 47-country Human Rights Council come as more than 10 million people have been driven from their homes in-



From left, United Nations Fact-Finding Mission's expert member Mona Rishmawi, left, its chair Mohamed Chande Othman and expert member Joy Ngozi Ezeilo present its first investigative report to the media during a press conference at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Friday, Sept. 6, 2024.

cluding more than 2 million to neighboring countries and famine has broken out in one large camp for displaced people in Darfur. The conflict that erupted in April 2023 has killed untold thousands of people, and humanitarian groups are struggling to gain access to people in need. In December, the U.N. Security Council voted to end the world body's political mission in the country under pressure from the military leadership. While the killings, displacements and forced starvation have been long

known, the call for creation of an independent force marks the latest sign of desperation from rights advocates both within the country and abroad to halt the bloodshed, displacement and food crisis.

"Given the failure of the parties to protect civilians so far, the fact-finding mission recommends the deployment of an independent and impartial force with a mandate to protect civilians in Sudan," the team's report said.

The experts didn't specify what might make up that

force, nor did they say which countries might be complicit in the crimes through their backing of rival sides. Sudan's military has accused the United Arab Emirates of supporting the RSF, a claim that the Gulf country has denied.

Neighboring Egypt is among the backers of Sudan's armed forces.

"The fact-finding mission considers that fighting will stop once the arms flow stops," the report said. It called for an immediate end to funneling weapons, ammunition and other sup-

port to any side, "as there is a risk that those supplying arms may be complicit in grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law."

The experts focused on a period from January and August this year. They visited three neighboring countries and took testimonies from more than 180 survivors, relatives and witnesses to the conflict that now has spread to 14 of Sudan's 18 states.

Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, a team member, said conflict-related sexual violence had a "long and tragic history" in Sudan, and civilians overwhelmingly women and girls "were, and continue to be, targeted with sexual violence in particular rape (and) gang rape by both parties to the conflict."

Earlier this month, talks in Geneva convened by the United States, Switzerland and Saudi Arabia made some headway in getting aid into Sudan, but mediators lamented the lack of participation of Sudan's armed forces. Egypt, the UAE, the African Union and the United Nations were also involved in the talks.

The U.N. World Food Program in Sudan reported that trucks carrying 100 metric tons of food entered Sudan on Friday through the Adre crossing from Chad, which reopened on Aug. 20. □

Associated Press

The Dutch government is expanding export restrictions for processor chip machines

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Dutch government is expanding export restrictions on equipment used to make advanced processor chips that can be integrated into weapons systems, a Cabinet minister announced Friday, citing security risks.

Dutch company ASML, one of the world's leading makers of chip machines, already faced export restrictions on other machines ahead of the announcement. The measures are seen as part of a U.S. policy that aims at restricting China's access to materials used to make chips, which can be used in military technology.

The new measure means the company will have to apply for government authorization whenever it wants to export deep ultraviolet lithography equipment to buyers outside the European Union, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Reinette Klever said in a statement.

"I've made this decision for reasons of security. We see that technological advances have given rise to increased security risks associated with the export of this specific manufacturing equipment, especially in the current geopolitical context," Klever said.

ASML said in a statement that the measure "will harmonize the approach for issuing export licenses" and said it "is not expected to have any impact on our financial outlook for 2024 or for our longer-term scenarios." □



The logo of ASML, a leading maker of semiconductor production equipment, hangs on the head office in Veldhoven, Netherlands, on Jan. 30, 2023.

Associated Press

A dormitory fire in Kenya kills 18 students and injures 27. Dozens are unaccounted for

By EVELYNE MUSAMBI

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — A fire in a school dormitory in Kenya has killed 18 students and 27 others have been hospitalized, with 70 children unaccounted for, the country's deputy president said Friday.

President William Ruto declared three days of mourning during which flags will be flown at half-staff in honor of the children who died.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said only 86 out of more than 150 children had been accounted for, and urged community members who may have sheltered some of them to help account for them.

Gachagua said that one more student had died at the hospital and that 37 pupils had been reunited with their parents so far.

The cause of the fire Thursday night at Hillside Endarasha Primary school in Nyeri County was being investigated, police spokesperson Resila Onyango said. The school serves children up to the age of 14.

Nyeri County Commissioner Pius Murugu and the education ministry reported



Part of a dormitory is seen following a fire at the Hillside Endarasha Primary in Nyeri, Kenya Friday, Sept. 6, 2024.

that the dormitory that caught fire housed more than 150 boys between ages 10 and 14. Since most of the buildings are made from wooden planks, the fire spread quickly.

The mixed day and boarding private school, which has 824 students, is located 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of the capital, Nairobi, in the country's central

highlands, where wooden structures are common.

Nyeri County Gov. Mutahi Kahiga told journalists that rescue efforts were hampered by muddy roads caused by rains in the area. Anxious parents who had been unable to find their children among the survivors waited at the school, engulfed with grief.

The parents were over-

come by emotions after they were allowed to view the scene of the fire.

John Rukwaro told journalists that his 11-year-old grandson was missing and he had checked with area hospitals without success.

The education ministry's permanent secretary, Belio Kipsang, said that the government was working with the school administration to

account for all the children in the boarding section.

"We are asking the parents who picked up their children and the community to support us as we consolidate the numbers to ensure that we account for every child who was boarding in this school," he said.

Ruto called the news "devastating."

"I instruct relevant authorities to thoroughly investigate this horrific incident. Those responsible will be held to account," he said in an X post.

His deputy, Rigathi Gachagua, urged school administrators to ensure that safety guidelines recommended by the education ministry for boarding schools are being followed.

School fires are common in Kenyan boarding schools, often caused by arson fueled by drug abuse and overcrowding, according to a recent education ministry report. Many students board because parents believe it gives them more time to study without long commutes.

Some fires have been started by students during protests over the workload or living conditions. □

Associated Press

Blinken visits Dominican Republic as talks with president focus on economy and Haiti's crisis

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) —

The U.S. secretary of state and the leader of the Dominican Republic held private talks Friday on a range of issues, from human rights, economic prosperity and regional security. However, the crisis in violence-wrecked Haiti dominated the discussions.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in the Dominican Republic for a one-day visit after landing in neighboring Haiti on Thursday to support a U.N.-backed mission led by Kenya to fight rampaging gangs there.

Blinken said he spoke with Dominican President Luis Abinader about the latter's

concerns regarding Haiti, which shares the island of Hispaniola with the Domini-

can Republic.

Abinader told reporters that his administration is



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, left, and Dominican Republic President Luis Abinader shake hands after giving a joint news conference at the National Palace in Santo Domingo, Sept. 6, 2024.

Associated Press

concerned over the apparent lack of resources for the mission and the thousands of inmates who escaped after gangs raided Haiti's two biggest prisons earlier this year as part of a coordinated attack.

Haiti's crisis has caused a surge in migrants trying to enter the Dominican Republic, Abinader said, adding that they're overwhelming schools and hospitals. Abinader's administration has been criticized in recent years for its treatment of Haitian migrants and those born in the Dominican Republic to Haitian parents. The government has largely closed the airspace to Haiti and is building a wall along the border

between the two countries. Blinken said the United States has seen some improvement in Haiti after the arrival of nearly 400 Kenyan police in recent months to crack down on gangs that control 80% of the capital of Port-au-Prince.

"The foundation for progress in Haiti has to be security," Blinken said. "This has to be something that the authorities, the state and ultimately the Haitian people control, not the gangs." Both Blinken and Abinader said they are pushing to normalize relations between the Dominican Republic and its neighbor.

"We have a strong interest in trying to help Haiti succeed," Blinken said. □

Dining in? Try making a local favorite

How to make “pan bati”

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Ingredients:

2 cups of all purpose flour
1 cup grams of fine corn-meal (we recommend the Harina PAN brand)
2 tbsp baking powder

1 1/3 cup of milk
1 pinch of salt
2 tbsp of granulated sugar
Oil for cooking

Instructions:

Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moisture is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in

enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top! ☐



Meet Aruba's biggest hero

Boy Ecury

(Oranjestad)—This past May 4th, Aruba as well as The Netherlands commemorated those who sadly perished during the Second World War. As is known around the globe, this chapter in world history is one of the most tragic yet, and many soldiers and rebels have died on the frontline during this time.

One of those rebels who have fought against the Nazi regime, was an Aruban named Segundo Jorge Adelberto “Boy” Ecury. Born in Aruba on April 23rd, 1922, Boy spent his childhood on the island, before being sent to The Netherlands by his father when he was 15 years old to continue his studies abroad. This was in 1937, three years before WWII broke out.

During the war, he actively participated in the rebellion in The Netherlands against the Nazi regime, but his rebellious streak and constant drive to fight for justice began even before the war broke out. Being a person of color with a Haitian



heritage living in The Netherlands made him vulnerable to discrimination, and this inspired him to be an activist, to stand up and fight against discrimination and oppression.

After seeing the horrific bombings of Rotterdam first-hand, he decided to join the resistance. At the same time, he was still studying and living with family in Tilburg. It was there where he met people who printed and distributed the rebellion newspaper. This would be the first of three rebellion groups that he would join throughout his 4-year service to the resistance.

Boy's primary task as member of the group was to distract the German soldiers while others ran into hiding into alleyways. This he was able to do because of his skin color and confronting demeanor. Boy also participated in the multiple sabotaging operations against the German military occupying The Netherlands. These included bombings on German military trucks and trains. The group also



helped people go into hiding, as well as opened fire against allies of the Nazi regime. In these operations, Boy really stood out for his cold bloodedness.

In 1943, he received a notice to be placed for work in Germany. This he refused, of course, and went into hiding using multiple addresses in multiple cities. Because he was a wanted man, he of course could not continue to be active as a rebel. However, stubborn and naturally rebellious as he was, he always tried to join in on the operations regardless.

In 1944, after his friend Luis de Lanoy, a fellow rebel from Curacao, was arrested and executed, he moved to Delft, where he joined his third and last group in Rotterdam. During this time, he wrote a goodbye letter for his family, possibly knowing the risks of him being active again in the big cities. Eventually, he proved himself right. On November 5th, 1944, Boy Ecury was arrested by German soldiers. He was placed in the “Oranje-hotel” prison in Scheveningen, The Hague, where he was questioned. Despite being given away by an

acquaintance, he himself never gave away the names of his comrades. Famously, he told his cell mate: “I will die with a smile on my face.”

On November 6th, 1944, Ecury was executed. He was only 22 years old.

Ecury was buried with military honor. In 1949, the Aruban Government erected a monumental bust of him in front of what is now the linear park trail, and in 1984 he received the Resistance Memorial Cross postmortem.

Boy's life motto was this: “In my father's house, there is no place for a traitor.”

Source: “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.



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Fusion - Piano & Wine Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Treasure Cove
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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Eagle Aruba Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors
Ms. Rhonda & Ms. Kim Waldon from Homestead Florida, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Eagle



Aruba Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people.

- Aruba is One Happy Place.
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba's restaurants.
- "The hospitality"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".

How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about

the development of Aruban beaches.

How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast

line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

Why north deep, but south shallow?

Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom.

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).



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Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Coming Soon: Moments & Memories Jewelry,
and El Patio Tacos & Tequila

Aruba Tourism Authority honored a loyal visitor at Aruba Beach Club Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassador of Aruba. The honoree was respectfully honored with a certificate for his years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was:

Emerald Ambassador
Mr. Jose Luis Guzman Jr from Congers New York,

United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Aruba Beach Club Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honoree, presented him with gifts, and thanked him for choosing Aruba as his favorite vacation destination, as his home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree was:

- Aruba's people & culture.
- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's weather.
- "Friendships"
- "Relaxation"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for his continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? The Department of Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrate some fish and

their names in Papiamentu.

Candelchi, Squirrelfish, Holocentrus adscensionis:

Candelchi actually refers to the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say, when we say candelchi, we mean several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most common one in our waters, which is called squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as *Holocentrus adscensionis*.

Under candelchi, we in Aruba generally refer to all the different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is distinguished by the following characteristics. They are heart-shaped with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks between the scales



along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curaçao, they are called "bari di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present and they are sometimes caught and seen occasionally. They can be distinguished by different marks such as color on the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

In Aruba:

Candelchi are found on reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups. □



Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use

(Oranjestad)—Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Pineapple

Pineapple has more uses than topping it on your Christmas ham. According



to elders, the skin of a pineapple is great to use to refresh your body. Clean the skin thoroughly and make tea or warapa* with it. It is said that this tea can also be drank after an operation on the ovaries or uterus. This gets rid of irritation and inflammation.

When the fruit is unripe and green, this can be used to stimulate menstruation flow in women. This also stimulates the passing kidney stones. When ripe, the fruit can be used for poisoning in the gut and can help treat rheumatic diseases, like arthritis.

However, breastfeeding women who cannot pro-

duce much milk are advised not to consume too pineapple, and people with acid reflux are recommended to not consume any pineapple at all.

Arrowroot

Arrowroot is native to tropical America and can be sold as a powder or whole. It is said that you can take arrowroot powder and make a "shalup" (porridge) for stomach pain or when you're feeling weak. You can make it with milk too, but it is advised to best use just water. You can also add prunes for a bit of sweetness. Arrowroot shalup is also good to treat an unhealthy gut or for diarrhea.

To make arrowroot shalup, boil a bit of water and add one tablespoon of arrowroot powder and stir continuously until you reach porridge consistency. If you make a shalup with milk, add a pinch of salt. Raw arrowroot powder can be used to powder babies.

Eggplant/Aubergine

Eggplants, or aubergines, are easy to find in supermarkets around the world and can be grown all year round on the island. Related to potato and tomato, eggplants are good to calm nerves. It can also be used to lower blood pressure, by steeping its leaves in boiled water and drinking it. You can also



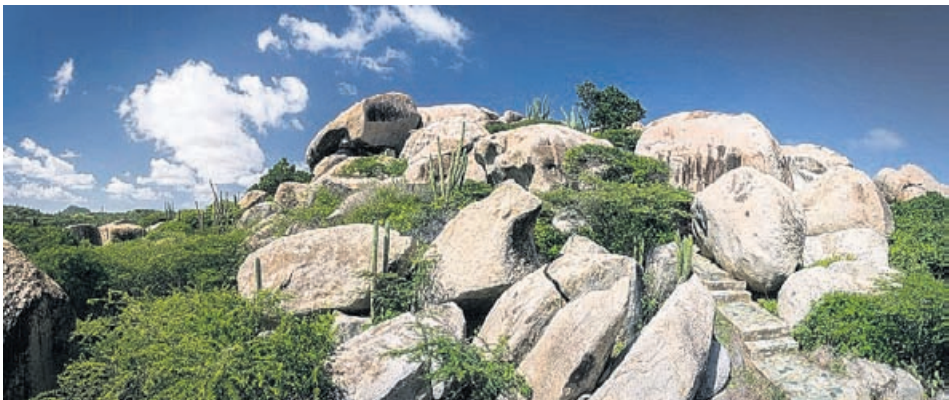
make eggplant juice to help purify your blood. However, do make sure to drink slowly; let it mix with your spit and then swallow. □

Eggplant kataplan* can also be used to treat skin tumors, abscesses and hemorrhoids. Eggplant kataplan can also be used externally to treat arthritis.

***warapa: term referring to a water and sugar solution, a.k.a simple syrup.**

***kataplan: porridge-like mixture used externally for wounds or parts of the body that are painful or swollen.**

Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations



(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history

of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and

close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding "mondi"*. This is also one of the few sites

to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying

view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

***Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi! □**



Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with



only one way to generate profit at the time for the subsistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much

trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterrella, as well as migrant authors José

Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu,

but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/ Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. □

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 — my case"
 - 1 Word of action
 - 5 Noted feature
 - seam-stress
 - 40 Car ding
 - 41 Polite
 - 9 Sharif and Epps
 - 11 Cow-hand's place
 - 12 River vessel
 - 13 Met work
 - 14 Help out
 - 15 Did some scheming
 - 17 Dried by dabbing
 - 19 Method
 - 20 "The Hobbit" dragon
 - 21 Male cat
 - 22 Forge worker
 - 24 Bible boat
 - 26 Impetuous
 - 29 Hearty brew
 - 30 Like some spoons
 - 32 Stopped flowing
 - 34 Unrefined
 - 35 Indian coin
 - 36 Relish tray choice

A	P	E	M	A	N	F	O	A	M
S	E	L	E	N	A	R	U	B	E
S	A	F	E	T	Y	F	I	R	S
			T	E	S	L	A		
	Z	E	U	S	O	R	A	L	
R	O	M	P		P	A	S	S	E
I	N	C		M	A	T		C	A
P	E	E	K	E	D		B	O	S
D	E	E	R		B	U	T	T	
			V	I	S	I	O	R	
B	U	I	L	T	T	O	L	A	S
I	N	C	A		A	Z	A	L	E
B	O	E	R		R	E	P	E	A

Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Words to learn, for short
 - 2 Phone reading
 - 3 Hap-hazard
 - 4 Sis's sib
 - 5 Captivated
 - 6 Ring work
 - 7 React to a ghost
 - 8 Like an elm grove
 - 10 Nose part
 - 11 Crucifix
 - 16 Like good hand-writing
 - 18 Gofer's note
 - 21 Not this
 - 23 Trampled for one
 - 24 Charm
 - 25 Resume business
 - 27 Try hard
 - 28 Angel's home
 - 29 Bitter
 - 30 Proofing
 - 31 Resided
 - 33 Final,
 - 37 Fall back

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9				10		11		
12						13		
14				15	16			
17			18				19	
	20					21		
			22			23		
	24	25			26		27	28
29				30				31
32			33				34	
35					36	37		
38					39			
40						41		

2-7

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-7 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

R MUWPE AZLP WDP ARKWZLP MU
WDRELREH WDWZ KMAPWDREH
WDZW RK MNBRTK WM AP
RK ITKW ZK MNBRTK WM
PBPSFMEP PJKP. — VDRAZAZEXZ
EHMYR ZXRVD RP

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: KEEP YOUR FACE ALWAYS TOWARD THE SUNSHINE — AND SHADOWS WILL FALL BEHIND YOU. — WALT WHITMAN

Cruise ship Schedule: September 03 - 24 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	03	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00 09.00	20.00 22.00	B C	1 1
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	10	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL CELEBRATION CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 08.00 13.00	21.00 22.00 23.00	B C I	1 1 1
TUE	17	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	24	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL MAGIC	08.00 09.00	21.00 22.00	B C	1 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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Judge gives U.S. regulators until December to propose penalties for Google's illegal search monopoly



A sign at Google headquarters in Mountain View, Calif. is shown on Oct. 8, 2010.

Associated Press

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

A federal judge on Friday gave the U.S. Justice Department until the end of the year to outline how Google should be punished for illegally monopolizing the internet search market and then prepare to present its case for imposing the penalties next spring.

The loose-ended timeline sketched out by U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta came during the first court hearing since he branded Google as a ruthless monopolist in a landmark ruling issued last month.

Mehta's decision triggered the need for another phase of the legal

process to determine how Google should be penalized for years of misconduct and forced to make other changes to prevent potential future abuses by the dominant search engine that's the foundation of its internet empire.

Attorneys for the Justice Department and Google were unable to reach a consensus on how the time frame for the penalty phase should unfold in the weeks leading up to Friday's hearing in Washington D.C., prompting Mehta to steer them down the road that he hopes will result in a decision on the punishment before Labor Day next year.

To make that happen,

Mehta indicated he would like the trial in the penalty phase to happen next spring. The judge said March and April look like the best months on his court calendar.

If Mehta's timeline pans out, a ruling on Google's antitrust penalties would come nearly five years after the Justice Department filed the lawsuit that led to a 10-week antitrust trial last autumn. That's similar to the timeline Microsoft experienced in the late 1990s when regulators targeted them for its misconduct in the personal computer market.

The Justice Department hasn't yet given any inkling on how severely Google should be punished. The most likely targets are the long-running deals that Google has lined up with Apple, Samsung, and other tech companies to

make its search engine the default option on smartphones and web browsers. In return for the guaranteed search traffic, Google has been paying its partners more than \$25 billion annually with most of that money going to Apple for the prized position on the iPhone. □



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WK 51 Ocean view \$65,000
WK 52 Ocean View \$65,000
WK 7 and 14 - all views

GOLD SEASON

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2 Bed Ocean view \$12,500
2 Bed Garden view \$10,000
3 Bed Ocean view \$28,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

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2 Bed Ocean view \$29,000
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1 Bed Ocean View \$17,000

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American Airlines	582 2700
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Surinam	582 7896

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Tel. 736 2952
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Movie Review: Bring your global entry card 'Beetlejuice' sequel's a soul train ride to comedy joy

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

"I have global entry!"
Now, does that sound like a funny line? Of course it doesn't. Whatever in the history of mankind and airport lines could be funny about global entry? But put it in the mouth of comedy goddess Catherine O'Hara, and place it in the singularly inventive world of Tim Burton and that wacky afterlife waiting room from "Beetlejuice," and it may become the one blessed time in your life you'll ever guffaw about global entry.

It likely won't be the only thing you'll guffaw about. Burton is back and, more significantly, he is BACK with "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice," 36 years after the original. And for once, the question "Why a sequel?" is moot. Not because we know the answer. (Do we?) But, who cares? It's funny. It may even make you feel better about, well, death, though not "death death." And Michael Keaton somehow looks exactly the same as he did in 1988 (to be fair, it helps that his character was already dead.) Returning to his tale of Keaton's ghostly, fiendish "bio-exorcist," director Burton brings back much of



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Michael Keaton in a scene from "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice."

the team behind the original, including, alongside O'Hara and Keaton, the still-lovely Winona Ryder as Lydia the Goth Girl (also, Bob the shrunken-head guy). And we've gained Justin Theroux, Monica Bellucci, Willem Dafoe, and for the younger generation, Jenna Ortega, who, as a relatively normal figure, serves as an appealing anchor, her story moving the plot along. Speaking of plot: if you didn't see the original, not to worry. It all gets ex-

plained (as much as it should be) in time. We begin in Winter River, Connecticut, still home to Lydia Deetz (Ryder), who came as a teenager with batty stepmom Delia and dad Charles, only to learn her new house was haunted by the recently deceased Adam and Barbara (Alec Baldwin and Geena Davis, alas not back). Lydia looks much the same dressed all in black, with spiky bangs and pale skin but is now a widowed mother, a psychic media-

tor, and host of a cheesy reality show, "Ghost House," in which she sees ghosts and asks, "Can the living and the dead co-exist?" But one day she sees something in the audience that scares her: visions of Beetlejuice, who wrought havoc when she was a teen and who, when we last left him, was wasting away in the afterlife waiting room (apparently, HE did not have global entry.) Waiting just off set to comfort Lydia after this terrifying vision is her manager and

boyfriend, Rory (Theroux), who has a little ponytail almost as smarmy as himself. Lydia then gets a concerning message from Delia (O'Hara), an artist of questionable talent and unquestionable ego, who's mounting a gallery show in which she herself is the canvas. There, Delia tells Lydia that she's lost Charles. "Is he divorcing you?" gasps Lydia. "What a horrible thought!" replies Delia. "No, he's dead." (Such lines are catnip for O'Hara, a genius of comic timing). Lydia calls her daughter, Astrid (Ortega), at boarding school. Astrid lists Lydia in her contacts as "Alleged Mom," which tells you much of what you need to know about their fraught relationship. But let's pause this account of the living, because we also have to catch you up on the dead. Down where Beetlejuice is stuck, where the dead live but not the "dead dead" Delores, Beetlejuice's ex-wife, has escaped from the crates (emphasis on plural) in which her body has resided. Watching the glamorous Bellucci literally staple herself together is just one of the glorious creative moments Burton and crew give us here. □

Associated Press

Video game performers reach agreement with 80 video games on AI terms



Actor Sena Bryer, second from left, joins other demonstrators in a SAG-AFTRA video game actor strike picket line outside Warner Bros. Studios on Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024, in Burbank, Calif.

Associated Press

By KAITLYN HUAMANI
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After striking for over a month, video game performers have reached agreements with 80 games that have signed interim or tiered budget agreements with the performers' union and accepted the artificial intelligence provisions they have been seeking.

Members of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists began striking in July after negotiations with game industry giants that began more than a year and a half ago came to a halt over AI protections. Union leaders say game voice actors and motion capture artists' likenesses could be replicated by AI and used without their consent and without fair compensation.

SAG-AFTRA announced the agreements with the 80 individual video games on Thursday. Performers impacted by the work stoppage can now work on those projects.

The strike against other major video game publishers, including Disney and Warner Bros.' game companies and Electronic Arts Productions Inc., will continue.

The interim agreement secures wage improvements, protections around "exploitative uses" of artificial intelligence and safety precautions that account for the strain of physical performances, as well as vocal stress. The tiered budget agreement aims to make working with union talent more feasible for independent game developers or smaller-budget projects while also providing performers the protections under the interim agreement. □

Yankees GM Cashman says going with Verdugo over Domínguez gives the team the best chance to win

By JAY COHEN

AP Baseball Writer
CHICAGO (AP) — The New York Yankees have some work to do, general manager Brian Cashman said. At least for now, Jasson Domínguez is going to do his work in the minors. New York is competing with the Baltimore Orioles for the AL East lead, and the 21-year-old Domínguez is one of the team's top prospects. But Domínguez is playing for Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre while Alex Verdugo remains in left field with the Yankees.

"Jasson's doing everything he needs to do right now, and Verdugo's playing obviously better baseball recently," Cashman said before Friday's series opener at the Chicago Cubs. "So the evaluations that we're having with our field staff and player development staff and front office staff is just what is going to give us the best chance to win, and as of right now, we're staying pat with what we've got, but we're always in the position to change our minds



From left, New York Yankees' Alex Verdugo, Juan Soto and Aaron Judge celebrate their team's 3-0 win over the Chicago Cubs in a baseball game, Friday, Sept. 6, 2024, in Chicago.

Associated Press

at some point, too."

Domínguez homered for Scranton/Wilkes-Barre on Wednesday and Thursday. He was batting .313 with seven homers, 24 RBIs and 15 steals in 41 games for the Triple-A club heading into Friday's action.

Domínguez, nicknamed "The Martian," made his big league debut last year and hit four homers in eight

games before he had Tommy John surgery on his right elbow. He was called up for the Little League Classic last month and went 0 for 4 in New York's 3-2 loss to Detroit, and then was sent back to the minors after the game.

Verdugo was in left on Friday at Wrigley Field. The 28-year-old outfielder hit .342 (14 for 41) in his previ-

ous 11 games, increasing his season numbers to a .235 batting average with 11 homers and 56 RBIs. When big league rosters expanded to 28 players on Sunday, New York activated first baseman Anthony Rizzo from the injured list and brought up outfielder/pinch-runner Duke Ellis from Triple-A as part of a flurry of moves. But it kept the

switch-hitting Domínguez in the minors.

"If he comes, he's got to play. He's not going to come here and just sit," Cashman said.

New York had dropped four of five going into the series at Chicago. Despite having one of the majors' best lineups, led by Aaron Judge and Juan Soto, it was just 30-38 in its last 68 games after a fast start to the season. Yankees manager Aaron Boone is employing a closer-by-committee approach after Clay Holmes surrendered a game-ending grand slam in a 7-4 loss at Texas on Tuesday night. Holmes has blown a major league-high 11 saves in 40 chances.

"I think the bullpen situation is, I think we have a lot of quality out there," Cashman said, "and Boonie's obviously, and his staff, with Matt Blake leading the pitching side of it, they're trying to figure it out ... what's the best lanes for everybody now, and if obviously you have to change things up, so be it." □

No ring, but a trophy: Kichenok postpones wedding, then wins U.S. Open women's doubles with Ostapenko

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Lyudmyla Kichenok was supposed to get married this week to Jelena Ostapenko's coach. A run to the U.S. Open women's doubles championship forced a change of plans. Kichenok and Ostapenko won the title Friday for their first major as a team, beating Kristina Mladenovic and Zhang Shuai 6-4, 6-3. Kichenok said she and Stas Khmarskiy were engaged more than a year ago. When they arrived for the tournament, they made plans for the wedding to be in New York.

"We were figuring out all the things, where we can do that. And, yeah, he found a spot here and he just booked an appointment for Wednesday," Kichenok said. "He told me that. I was like, 'OK, yeah,

let's go.'"

Instead, Kichenok and Ostapenko were playing their semifinal match Wednesday. "I think it's a good excuse to postpone it a bit," Ostapenko said during the trophy ceremony.

Kichenok and Ostapenko, the No. 7 seeds, began the season with a loss in the Australian Open final. They were too good in Flushing Meadows, where they didn't drop a set and won \$750,000.

It was the fifth title together overall for Ostapenko, a Latvian who won the 2017 French Open in singles, and Kichenok, who dedicated the victory to her home country of Ukraine.

"They are fighting really hard for our freedom right now and I just hope I can give them some encouragement," Kichenok said, "and my heart is with them."

Kichenok and Ostapenko raced to a 4-1 lead before Mladenovic and Zhang fought back to tie it at 4-all. Ostapenko and Kichenok regained the lead when Ostapenko finally held serve during a 22-point game that lasted more than 12 minutes, and they won the set in the next game when Zhang double-faulted.

After falling behind 2-0 in the second, Kichenok and Ostapenko surged back as Arthur Ashe Stadium began to fill up with fans waiting for the first men's semifinal between No. 1 Jannik Sinner and No. 25 Jack Draper.

Mladenovic and Zhang fought off three match points the last when a video review confirmed that Kichenok had hit the ball twice on an attempted volley before the champions wrapped it up on their next chance.

Mladenovic has won six Grand Slam doubles titles but fell to 0-3 in the U.S. Open final.

"But I still like the place. It's OK," she joked afterward.

Zhang was looking for her second trophy in New York, having teamed with Sam Stosur for the 2021 title. She and Mladenovic shared \$375,000. □



Jelena Ostapenko, of Latvia, left, and Lyudmyla Kichenok, of Ukraine, wave to the crowd after defeating Kristina Mladenovic, of France, and Zhang Shuai, of China, in the women's doubles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Friday, Sept. 6, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

History suggests a team will make a big leap to reach a conference championship game

By **ROB MAADDI**
 AP Pro Football Writer

Some of the 18 NFL teams that missed the playoffs last year have reason to hope for much greater success this season. Since 2019, seven teams have reached a conference championship game after failing to make the playoffs the previous season. Four of those seven teams won six or fewer games the year before advancing to the NFL's Final Four.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers went from 7-9 in 2019 to Super Bowl champions in 2020. The San Francisco 49ers rebounded from a 4-12 season in 2018 to reach the Super Bowl the following year only to lose to the Kansas City Chiefs. They bounced back from a 6-10 campaign in 2020 and got to the NFC title game the next season.

Here are five potential sleeper teams in 2024:

Buffalo Bills

Josh Allen donned a gladiator-style costume for Pepsi's short film that also features Travis Kelce, Justin Jefferson, Derrick Henry and Megan Thee Stallion.

The Bills need Allen to play like a gladiator to get to a Super Bowl.

Allen lost top receivers Stefon Diggs and Gabe Davis so he's working with a new pass catching corps. The Bills made the playoffs last year so they wouldn't be considered



Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence (16) runs out of the pocket against the Atlanta Falcons in the first half of an NFL preseason football game, Friday, Aug. 23, 2024, in Atlanta.
 Associated Press

sleepers but expectations are much lower for a team that has lost in the divisional round three straight seasons after falling short in the AFC title game against Kansas City four years ago.

"It takes a little bit of luck to bounce your way, too, but ultimately, it comes down to winning your last game and that takes 53 guys on an entire roster, plus the practice squad, plus your training staff, plus your equipment staff, plus your weight-training staff and your strength staff," Allen said. "It takes everybody in the entire building. So, looking forward to the challenge this year, and we're going to do everything that we can do to get over that hump."

Atlanta Falcons

They have a new coach and new quarterback after

six straight losing seasons. Raheem Morris replaced Arthur Smith and four-time Pro Bowl QB Kirk Cousins got \$100 million guaranteed in free agency to be the solution at the most important position. Cousins has plenty of playmakers around him, including wide receivers Drake London and Darnell Mooney, tight end Kyle Pitts and running back Bijan Robinson. The defense got a major boost with the addition of edge rusher Matthew Judon and safety Justin Simmons. The Falcons are favorites to surpass three-time defending champion Tampa Bay and capture the NFC South, according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

"You just try to have the same habits and I think that gives you the best chance for suc-

cess, but you certainly want to build momentum through the year," Cousins said. "That certainly can be done when you're playing well and winning."

New York Jets

Aaron Rodgers' return from a torn Achilles tendon and the excitement surrounding the team hardly makes the Jets a sleeper. But they were 7-10 last year because Rodgers only played four snaps.

If Rodgers stays healthy, the Jets will have a dangerous offense with running back Breece Hall and wide receivers Garrett Wilson and Mike Williams surrounding Rodgers. Gang Green's defense led by cornerbacks Sauce Gardner and D.J. Reed, defensive tackle Quinnen Williams and linebackers C.J. Mosley and Quincy Williams already is fierce. It'll be even better if edge rusher Haason Reddick shows up.

"I feel like this entire team, this entire organization has a renewed mind set," coach Robert Saleh said. "We're just all looking forward to getting to compete on Monday night (against San Francisco)."

Jacksonville Jaguars

The Jaguars fell apart after an 8-3 start and missed the playoffs after losing five of their last six. Quarterback Trevor Lawrence is healthy now and got paid to deliver. Coach Doug Pederson already turned the franchise

around after inheriting Urban Meyer's mess and led them to a division title and playoff victory two years ago. Pederson knows what it takes to win. He led the Eagles to a Super Bowl victory with a backup quarterback by beating New England.

A revamped defense led by new coordinator Ryan Nielsen has a pair of star pass rushers in Josh Hines-Alen and Travon Walker. The pieces are in place for the Jaguars to make a deep playoff run. "Quite honestly, that's what I was hired to do," Pederson said about winning. "We just have to go do it. I can appreciate that. It doesn't add any extra pressure or anything like that. We just have to go to our jobs."

Chicago Bears

There's plenty of hype surrounding the Bears because of Caleb Williams. But the Bears have had only one winning season in the last 11 years and play in the tough NFC North.

Williams, the No. 1 overall pick, should finally answer Chicago's search for a franchise quarterback. The Bears added wide receivers Rome Odunze, Keenan Allen and running back D'Andre Swift to make sure he has help.

The team might be a year or two from making a Super Bowl run but Williams should make an immediate impact.



Rebecca Cheptegei, competes at the Discovery 10km road race in Kapchorwa, Uganda, Jan. 20, 2023.
 Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The city of Paris wants to honor the late Ugandan Olympic runner Rebecca Cheptegei by naming a sports venue after her. The proposal was announced by city mayor Anne Hidalgo on Friday and will be discussed by city officials in

October. Cheptegei died on Thursday at a Kenyan hospital where she was being treated after 80% of her body was burned in an attack by her partner. She was 33. Cheptegei competed in the women's marathon at the

Paris wants to honor late Ugandan Olympian Cheptegei by naming sports venue after her

Paris Olympics less than a month ago and finished 44th. "Paris will not forget her and we will dedicate a sports venue to her, so that her memory and her story will remain among us, and help us carry even stronger the message of equality, which is a message carried by the Olympic and Paralympic Games," Hidalgo said. City hall said in a statement, "Paris joins its elected representatives in expressing its support for the family of the athlete, victim of a femicide

a few weeks after her participation in the Olympic Games." Trans Nzoia County Police Commander Jeremiah ole Kosiom said this week that Cheptegei's partner, Dickson Ndiema, bought a can of gasoline, poured it on her and set her ablaze during a disagreement last Sunday. Ndiema was also burned and was being treated at the same hospital. Every 11 minutes on average, a woman or girl is killed by an intimate partner or family

member somewhere in the world, according to figures from UN Women, the agency promoting gender equality, and the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime. "An emotional thought for Rebecca Cheptegei," Hidalgo said. "She dazzled us here in Paris. We saw her — her beauty, her strength, her freedom — and it was in all likelihood her beauty, strength and freedom which were intolerable for the person who committed this murder."